

CLAIMS

1. An exhaust emission control device for an engine which is provided with an exhaust pipe comprising:

a first catalytic converter which contains the element *Rhodium (Rh)*, and

a second catalytic converter which contains *Rh* and a hydrocarbon (*HC*) absorbent material which absorbs *HC*,

wherein said first catalytic converter and said second catalytic converter are provided in series in said exhaust pipe and the *Rh* content by percentage in said second catalytic converter is higher than the *Rh* content by percentage in said first catalytic converter.

2. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein said second catalytic converter is disposed downstream of said first catalytic converter.

3. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 2 wherein said first and second catalytic converters contain Platinum (*Pt*) and a *Pt* content by percentage or amount in said first catalytic converter is higher than a *Pt* content by percentage or amount of said second catalytic converter.

4. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein a third catalytic converter which contains *Rh* and a *HC* absorbent material is further provided downstream of said second catalytic converter and a *Rh* content by percentage or amount of said third catalytic converter is higher than a *Rh* content by percentage or amount of said second catalytic converter.

5. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein said second catalytic converter has a coating of HC absorbent material on the surface of a honeycomb shaped catalyst carrier and a further coating of a three-way catalyst on said coating of HC absorbent material.

6. An exhaust emission control device according to Claim 1 wherein said second catalytic converter has a coating which comprises a mixture of an HC absorbent material and a three-way catalyst on the surface of a honeycomb shaped catalyst carrier.